

From the Rendezvous of the whole Army upon  
Hounslow Heath, August 3. 1647.

In this Letter is contained, The gallant proceedings of the Army under his excellency Sir Thomas Fairfax, The Names of the three Generalls for London, against the Army, The crueltie used against the 2000 well-affected Prentices in that Citie, The severall skirmishes between them, &c. and the compliance of the Citie to some of the just Desires of the Army, whereby there is great hopes of an agreement, and settling of a lasting Peace.

**I**N my last by the weekly Post I acquainted you with the horrid Act of certain Apprentices, Reformadoes, &c. in their violent forcing the Parliament to Vote as they would have them, both Houses adjourning till Friday last, the two Speakers thereof, and divers Members durst not meet, as foreseeing they should be forced to Vote what ever the tumult would command them, and thereby passe that in a formall way which might be destructive to the Kingdome, the Citie punishing no man for the late violence, but rather countenancing and animating of them, hereupon (as by the Speakers Declaration in Print may appear) he withdrew, and so did most of the Members of both Houses, and are now come to the Army, therein being fourteene of the House of Peers, and a greater number of the House of Commons then are left behinde. This day hath the Army put forth a Declaration that they are resolved to bring these men to punishment, That the eleven Members (who set them on work) and now act with them, be delivered up to Justice, and that they are resolved (God willing) to march with the army, and guard the Speakers and Members of both Houses (thus forced from the Parliament) that they may Sitt and Vote with freedom, which before this week ends (we hope) without much difficultie will be done. The Proposals for a Treaty upon the generall settlement of a Peace are finished, and sent to the Presse, that the whole Kingdome may be Judge of the Desires of the Army, as in Relation to the King, Parliament, and Kingdome, by which they will perceive the Army will never desert the Right and Liberties of the the Subject, about which so much Treasure and blood hath been spent. For the Posture of the Citie they have chosen three Generals, Poyntz, Walker, and Massie; they labour day and night to raise an Army, but yet are farre from one; yet their stirring and bustling is such, as if they would bring 100000 men into the field: Southwark (being the suburbs on the South side of Citie) stands upon their guard against the City. Incredible are the distractions amongst them, and its the wonder of all men the Common Councell should still persevere to bring ruine upon this Citie. The last night two thousand well-affected Apprentices went to the Common Councell with a Petition, beseeching them to bethink of an accommodation, that the Citie might be preserved from utter inevitable ruine, like to fall on it: Instead of complying with these honest Desires, Poyntz with thirty Reformadoes came into Guild Hall Yard, where these Apprentices were, and with their Swords drawn, hackt and hewed them in a cruell manner, and mortally wounded divers of them, they ha-

ving nothing to defend themselves. The Citie sent out some Horse of Graves and Sir Ro: Pyes into Kent, to bee a countenance to a Malignant Partie to rise for them, in that Countie; but Major Desborough being sent out with a partie of Horse, fell upon them neere Detford, took 60 prisoners, three slain, and pursued them to the Turn-Pike at Southwark; but the Citie are like to fail in their expectations of that Countie, for Kent generally rises with the Army, and will be at Rendezvous in their owne Countie this day. Also the Hertfordshire men have sent three thousand Horse and Foot to the Rendezvous on Hounslow Heath this day. The Earle of Warwicke is raising of Essex to joyn with us: the E. of Manchester, Salisbury, Northumberland, &c. will, (if there be further need for the strengthening of the Army) use their Interest for the raising of Forces. I forgot to tell you on Friday when they found their old Speakers gone, the Designing Party of the House chose a Speaker, one Mr Pelham of Lincolnshire, and they at first went on bravely, as they thought, but now their number is reduced to 63, for yesterday the House was divided concerning the sending up for the King, & it was carried by 3 votes that he should come to the Parliament before he had made any provision for the poor oppressed Subjects of England. The Lords are reduced to the number of 6, whereof the Earle of Pembroke. The Army have seized upon the two strong Holds of Gravesend and Tilbury Port, which much troubles the Citie, by reason we have thereby the command of the Thames. I beleve upon the March of the Army this day from the Rendezvous some what near the Citie on both sides the water, will put them to milder Counsels, and bethink its time to seek to save a Citie rather then to hazard the ruin of it by protecting a few persons, who would not care if the Citie was all on fire, so that their malice and fury might take place. This Day at the Rendezvous was present, (besides the Lords formerly mentioned) the Lord Grey of Wark, and divers other Lords; afterwards the Prince Elector came into the Field, and viewed the whole Army, which was drawn in Batallia, with Reserves upon the Heareh near a mile and half in length; great was the acclamation of the souldiery, Horse, and Foot, as the Generall and Members of both Houses rid by, crying out, *Lords and Commons, a free Parliament*. Afterwards a Councell of War was called, and one Brigade of the Army was Commanded over Kingston Bridge, and we hope before too morrow morning will be possesst of Southwark, for a great party there appeare cordiall for the Army, and cry out upon the Citie for their forwardnesse to a Warre. The Generall quarters this night at Thistleworth, the Van of the Army at or near Hamersmith, the Train at Brainford. Major Gen: Massie is very busie in sending out Scouts and parties, but near Brainford ten of ours chased thirty of theirs, and tooke 4. and after fell upon a party and took one Colour. Our men are so much incaged at Poyntz, his barbarous act in wounding and slaying some of the well-affected Citizens, that we cannot keepe them out for falling upon them. I shall not trouble you more, but that this great businesse is like to come to an issue before this come to your Hands. I pray God, it may be ended without further ingagement by the sword. The Citizens do now begin to see they are in a way of undoing if they doe not come to an accord, and therefore sent six Aldermen, and 12 Common-Councell men with an humble Letter to the Generall, beseeching a way of accommodation may be thought on.

To his very good friend in York.

Towne, R. H.

There is likewise information come from a very probable Hind, That the Common-Councell of London (about eleven of the Clock on Tuesday night last) Voted, That they will part with a very considerable sum of money for the good of the Army and Kingdome, That the Militia shall be settled as it was by Ordinance before the Tumult on Munday was sennight, That they will receive a Guard of Horse from the Army, for the Parliament, That they shall have the command of the Tower, and, That they will deliver up to justice those that were principall in the late violence offered the Parliament, as also the eleven Members. The Guards of the Army face the Guards of the Citie, but each of them having Command not to Fire, unless the other Party did, there was no hurt done.